

McLaughlin, Craig D (DOH)

From: Luberski@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2006 5:19 PM
To: McLaughlin, Craig D (DOH); Wolff, Tara (DOH)
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Subject: (no subject)
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Craig McLaughlin
Executive Director
Washington Board of Health
PO Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504-7990

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

I write to you today in support of requiring proof of pneumococcal immunization for all children entering into public school. I am a practicing pediatrician in Spokane. I am actively engaged in clinical research and pharmaceutical trials toward advances in pediatric and adolescent immunization. I am familiar with the scientific literature around issues of vaccination.

Pneumovax has proven to be an effective vaccine for children. It has dramatically reduced incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease as well as numbers of severe cases of otitis media. The numbers of tube insertions has dropped and incidence of resistant infections has similarly been reduced.

The most significant and unexpected event, however, has been the how use of the vaccination has reduced disease in those not vaccinated or even targeted. The conjugated vaccine has been proven to reduce nasal carriage and therefore transmissibility. The incidence of invasive disease in senior citizens is down 20% since introduction. Similar reductions would be expected in older school age children who have not received the vaccine.

By use of this vaccine we effect the health of the entire community through the effect of herd immunity. By requiring the evidence of this vaccination we not only insure the health of the particular child but the health of the entire community.

If there are and further questions , please do not hesitate to write or call.

Stephen R. Luber MD FAAP